

Appl. No. 09/813,416
Response Dated May 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2005

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry and consideration of the above amendments even though presented after a final rejection.

Claims 1-20 stand in this application. Claims 1, 10, 13 and 18 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the standing claims are respectfully requested.

At page 2, paragraph 2, of the Office Action claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent Number (USPN) 6,058,421 (Fijolek). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection.

Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the broad ground of rejections presented in the Office Action, Applicant has amended the independent claims in order to further prosecution on the merits. Independent claims 1, 10, 13 and 18 have been amended to clarify that the agent is for a virtual private network. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the specification. *See*, for example, Specification, Page 6, 7, 14 and 15. At least this feature is not disclosed by the Fijolek reference. Accordingly, removal of the anticipation rejection with respect to independent claims 1, 10, 13 and 18 is respectfully requested. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the anticipation rejection with respect to claims 2-9, 11, 12, 14-17, 19 and 20, which depend from claims 1, 10, 13 and 18, and therefore contain additional features that further distinguish these claims from the Fijolek reference.

Appl. No. 09/813,416
Response Dated May 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2005

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that claims 1-20 recite novel features not shown by the cited reference. Further, Applicant submits that the above-recited novel features provide new and unexpected results not recognized by the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claims are not anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the cited reference.

Applicant does not otherwise concede, however, the correctness of the Office Action's rejection with respect to any of the features of the independent claims or dependent claims discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant hereby reserves the right to make additional arguments as may be necessary to further distinguish the independent or dependent claims from the cited references, taken alone or in combination, based on additional features contained in the independent or dependent claims that were not discussed above. A detailed discussion of these differences is believed to be unnecessary at this time in view of the basic differences in the independent claims pointed out above.

It is believed that claims 1-20 are in allowable form. Accordingly, a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 724-933-3387 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Appl. No. 09/813,416
Response Dated May 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2005

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

s/John F. Kacvinsky/s

John F. Kacvinsky, Reg. No. 40,040
Under 37 CFR 1.34(a)

Dated: May 10, 2005

12400 Wilshire Blvd., 7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at:

1-703-872-9306
Facsimile Number
John F. Kacvinsky
Signature 5-10-2005
Date